

City of Little Falls
Comprehensive Plan
Introduction

This comprehensive park plan was submitted to the county planning office in March 1981. The plan was developed, utilizing public input, at an open meeting by the Park Commission and the Community Center Advisory Board.

Included within the city are three park areas. All are located within residential zones on city owned property. The primary park area is located on the north side of the Community Center building on North Tenth St. The second park area is on the north side of City Hall, and the third area is on Cedar Street at the Grande Ronde River.

The parks are administered by the Director of Parks and Recreation with advice from the Community Center Board of Directors. The director is reportable to the City Manager and is answerable to the City Park Commission which consists of three City Councilmen.

General maintenance is the responsibility of the City maintenance crew chief under the direction of the City Manager. Special projects and improvements utilize grants, donated materials and money, CETA and other labor from government programs and volunteer labor.

TON McDOWALL PARK
at the Community Center

Park Purpose:

Picnic, swim, active play.

Present Use (1961):

1. Much school foot traffic through the park.
2. Substantial year round use on play apparatus.
3. Used by summer recreation program for games, crafts, picnics, etc.
4. Used by preschool program for play.
5. Picnic table receives much use by sand blasters.

Need for Development:

There are no picnic facilities in or near Allyn, this is the only swim pool and play area in this end of the county.

Present Features:

- Bisected by dirt foot path. (Dirt, asphalt path was laid.)
- 10 small trees
- 7 shrubs
- lawn
- 1 wood picnic table
- Irrigation system (underground, needs repair)
- Small wood play complex (bar, platforms, slide, tireswing, tire climbing pole.)
- 1 water faucet
- Fenced, outdoor wading pool (unsuitable unless replumbed)
- Indoor, uncovered swim pool (usable about 3 months annually)
- 2 gravel parking areas
- 3 utility poles just inside park boundary: 2 on east, 1 on north, lines run parallel to park boundaries.

Proposed Developments:

1. 6 picnic tables-cement base on cement pads, plank tops,
3 BBQ's-pedestal type set in table pads
Paved path through park-6' or 8' wide, curving
Garbage cans-probably chained to posts set into edge of path.
2. Drinking fountain-dedicated to one of the founders of the Community Center, memorial funds exist for this project.
3. Fencing-cyclone on West side and NW, SW corners to keep users in park, autos out, direct foot & bike traffic to path, etc. Landscaping-provide shade, privacy and esthetic value. Handicapped access-provide paved parking area adjacent to walk.
4. Convert wading pool into sandbox-fun confinement for small children, fence keeps dogs and cats out, safe and economical.
5. Install basketball hoops on rear wall of the C.C.
Pave rear parking lot-provide outdoor BB court, park parking.
6. Tennis court-repair court at end of Grade School field, build additional court at end of existing one.
7. Additional play apparatus.

8. Cover pool-sliding areas for easy conversion to open air, enable year round usage, decrease maintenance and heating costs, increase water safety through lifeguard classes. Solar water heater.
9. Restrooms on N. Side of building-to include plumbing and wiring from pool dressing room.

Impact:

Successful landscaping should encourage birds and small animals. The esthetic value of the park should be improved through the proposed additions. The improvements are intended to draw people into specific areas that are designed for such use thereby protecting certain other areas of the park and community. Although the numbers of users should be greater, the damage to vegetation and the amount of litter should be decreased. There should be a negligible increase in auto traffic and no increase in noise as the children are already there.

OPERA HOUSE PARK

Adjacent to the Opera House (City Hall)

Park Purpose:

Horseshoes and shady leisure area for passers through.

Present Use: (1981):

occasional loungers

Need for Development:

Tourists and walkers often seek a drink of water or place to stretch. This park is near a major arterial through town and is quite visible in addition to being close to service station restrooms. It is a short walk for shoppers to get a drink or for Senior Citizens to go for a stroll or to play horschoes. It is unsuitable for a childrens play area because of proximity to the railroad tracks and streets.

Present Features:

- 6 large trees
- 1 wood picnic table
- 1 garbage can
- 1 faucet
- lawn

Proposed Development:

- Drinking fountain
- 4 horseshoe courts-cement pitching boxes, level ground
- Benches
- Picnic tables-2 either wood or permanent cement on pads
- Sidewalk-repair walk on N. edge
- Fence between park and tracks

Impact:

- There should be no ecological impact.
- There is sufficient parking, no other changes anticipated.

HONAJA PARK

North of Cedar Street at Grand Ronde River

Park Purposes:

Natural area for unimproved permit camping, bird watching, youth fishing.

Present Use (1981):

Some youth fishing
Occasional camping
Ice skating when pond froze 4 years ago

Need for Development:

There is a need for a natural area within easy walking distance of town, youths who are too young to drive can find good fishing, tourists can stop close enough to do business with Elgin merchants, families can picnic in country without driving, etc.

Present Features:

River
Pond
Water faucet
2 large trees
Much brush
Grass area, largely swampy
Gravel parking area

Proposed Development:

Picnic facilities-non specific at this time
Ditch and tile
Landscape-including natural plantings
Fill pond to 3' depth (increase safety for ice skate and children)
Stock fish
Garbage cans
Toilets
Bird Houses
Path

Impact:

The developments should increase bird habitat. There should be very little impact on small animals in the park as increased plantings will afford additional protection. The area is currently put to the above mentioned purposes but without benefit of plans or maintenance. These developments should help control litter, ecological damage and extended or otherwise undesirable camping.

*Recommended by City Maintenance Forman and Community Center Board to move pond to the NW corner of park to discourage adult fishermen and dumping of garbage in pond, inlet creek will be rerouted to drain swampy upper park area. Present pond is full of glass, etc. and difficult to rehabilitate.

HUIANA PARK
(Huiana is the Indian name for
the Great Bend River)

History:

- 1908 Elgin citizens began clearing brush and planting cottonwoods in the park by the river which became known as the City Park.
- 1911 A covered pavillion was built-it was used for 4th of July picnics, open air dances to travelling bands, speeches by visiting dignitaries including the governor, church camp meetings, etc.
- 1954 The pavillion was burned because the supports were rotting.
- 19 The Chamber of Commerce dug a pond to be used by juvenile anglers.
- 1977 City Maintenance crew cut down all but one of the, old cottonwoods because they were dropping large limbs, the crew was instructed to proceed to fill in the pond because someone might drown.
- 1981 A comprehensive park plan was developed for the three city parks. The name Huiana was researched and adopted for the Old City Park by the river and plans were made to redevelop it.

Development priorities:

- Move the pond to the NW corner of the park.
- Dig access creek near S and W sides of the park, piling dirt along boundaries (installing tiles under bank at regular intervals).
- Plant willows, cottonwoods, pines, firs, lamarack, spruce, etc. on berm and other park areas.
- Level, tile, plant grass on open park area.
- Develop path around pond and park area, build bridge where path crosses creek, cover path with wood chips (eventually asphalt).
- Install park sign.
- Develop access road and parking area, construct vehicle barrier of logs or boulders.
- Install picnic tables, garbage cans, ED Q's, put toilets, drinking fountain, softball diamond/backstop, posts for volleyball net.